Senate Research Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, March 30, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. in room S-205

Present: C. Bédard, E. Besso, R. Bhat, R. Hale, N. Howe, R. Lachapelle, B. Layne, T. Mak, J. McGuire, D. Pushkar R. Roy

Regrets: J. Beaudoin, F. Haghighat, N. Sajnani

1. Approval of the Agenda

   The agenda was approved.

2. The approval of the minutes of the meeting of Thursday, February 3, 2000 was deferred.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

   Item Deferred.

4. Chair's report

   Canada Research Chairs (CRC): Universities are still awaiting instructions from the government with respect to the application process for this competition. The parameters have not yet been finalized, but it is expected that the process will be outlined by the summer.

   Policy on postdocs: SRC members were asked to submit any comments they might have on the drafting of a University policy for postdocs to Dean Bédard, the Chair of the postdoc committee. A policy will be drafted over the summer.

   Government budgets: Following the recent federal and provincial budgets, the CFI now has $2 billion to invest in research across Canada, whereas the Valorisation Recherche Quebec (VRQ) program now has $220 million. Concordia did not submit any applications to the first round of the VRQ competition, but we expect to apply in the next round.

- A document outlining the criteria for a two-year fellowship at the Institute for Work and Health in Toronto was distributed.

- A document from the Conseil de la Science et de la Technologie, dated February 2000, entitled *"Social Innovation and Technological Innovation - The contribution of research in the social sciences and humanities"* was also distributed.

5. Report from the Director, Office of Research Services

   The Director's Report is attached.

6. Question period

There were some questions and ensuing discussion regarding the Canada Research Chairs competition. The members of SRC were of the opinion that a sub-committee of SRC, or a committee approved by SRC, should be responsible for the management of Concordia's applications for funding within the new program. Although the details on how the CRC's will be adjudicated or apportioned, as the case may be, are not yet available, the committee agreed that a university-wide body should have, at the very least, a consultative role in the internal selection of concordia's priorities under this program.

to be modified.

Action: it was unanimously agreed that the Chair of the SRC should report the above discussion to the Provost and Vice-Rector Research, indicating that the Senate Research Committee should strike a committee which will be mandated to develop guidelines and procedures for the internal selection and administration of proposals to the Canada Research Chairs, once the agency has announced its program regulations.

7. New Business

7.1 *URF guidelines*: Dr. Bhat introduced the possibility of extending eligibility for URF's to Research Fellows and Research Professors. It was decided by the Committee that the current eligibility regulations are appropriate.

7.2 *Research Activity Brochure*: the Executive Director of University Recruitment, Ms. Ann Vroom has stated that on several occasions she has been asked if concordia produces a brochure highlighting our research strengths. The Faculties do have some publications which highlight research, but there is not a University-wide brochure currently available. This issue will be discussed at the University Recruitment Advisory Committee, and further information will be brought back to the SRC if necessary.

7.3 *VRQ (Valorisation Recherche Québec)*: Dr. Besso outlined the major components of the $220 million VRQ budget. Of key importance is that there is funding available from this agency to support research infrastructure, and concordia has not yet taken advantage of this funding opportunity. Dr. Besso will chair an information session on this program and the changes in the FCAR programs, in GM-403-02, at 2:00 pm on April 11.

7.4 *New FCAR guidelines*: Dr. Besso distributed a table outlining the changes to the "Equipes de recherche" and "Centres de recherche" programs.

8. Other business

There was no other business.

9. The next meeting will be Thursday, April 27, 2000.

10. The meeting adjourned at 12:00.